(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Some of the major schemes undertaken for the welfare of the rural worekers including agricultural workers are:-

(i) *Intergrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)*

Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided for acquiring income generating assets, comprising of a varying mix of subsidies and term credit at differential rates for small farmers, marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans with special provision for SC/STs and women.

(ii) *Jawahar Rajgar Yojna (JRY)*

This scheme aims at generation of additional gainful employment and creation of productive community assets. This scheme has been intensified in 120 backward districts of the country where there is concentration of unemployment and under employment.

(iii) *Training off Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM)-*

The scheme aims at skill upgradation of rural youth for self employment and at providing basic technical and managerial skill to rural youth from families below poverty line to enable them to take self-employment and wage employment. Under this scheme, 50% of the participants should be Scheduled Castes, 40% women and 3% physically handicapped.

(iv) *Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)*

Employment Assurance scheme seeks to provide assured wage employment of 100 days of unskilled manual work in lean agricultural season.

(v) *Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA)-*

This scheme was launched in 1982-83 for bringing about economic and social upliftment of rural women belonging to families below the poverty line using a group approach for taking up income generating activities suited to their skill and aptitude. The scheme operates in conjunction with TRYSEM and IRDP.

(vi) *National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)-*

The Government have taken up a new scheme with effect from 15.8.1995 namely National Social Assitance Programme (NSAP), This scheme has three components viz. old age pension, survivor benefit in the case of death of primary bread winner of households below poverty line and maternity benefit for first two live births to poor women, which will also substantially benefit agricultural workers.

2. There are other schemes like Million Wells Scheme, Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP).

3. The Central and various State Governments have taken up several insurance and social security schemes like Group Insurance Scheme for landless agricultural labourers in 1987 under the Social Security Fund being operated by the LIC for providing insurance cover to all landless agricultural labourers in the age group of 18—60 years and the Insurance Scheme for IRDP beneficiaries in 1980. Besides, State Governments are running old age pension schemes with varying eligibility criteria and pension rates. The Government have also adopted a multi-dimensional course of action to further improve the socio-economic conditions of agricultural labourers by improving infrastructural facilities, diversification to non-farm activities, continued operation of various skill improvement, poverty alleviation, development and financial assistance programme.

Persons Registered with Employment Exchanges

89. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of persons registered with employment exchanges all over the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of unemployed persons have increased alarmingly during the period; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to check growing unemployment in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTYA): (a) A statement showing the details of job-seekers, who were on the live register of employment exchanges in the country as at the end of 1996, 1997 & August, 1998 is enclosed; all persons on the live register of employment exchanges are not necessarily unemployed. (*See* below)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

Statement

State-wise No. of persons Registered with Employment Exchanges at the end of 1996-97 & August, 1998

(In Thousand)

Sl. No.	State/UT	at the end of		
		1996	1997	August, 1998
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2937.6	3087.5	3180.8
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7.0	10.8	12.4
3.	Assam	1296.0	1475.0	1484.2
4.	Bihar	3465.5	3351.3	3326.8
5.	Goa	102.7	109.0	111.0
6.	Gujarat	931.3	942.3	935.1
7.	Haryana	756.3	787.1	814.0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	638.4	718.3	742.3
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	152.9	164.7	163.7
10.	Karnataka	1808.5	1831.6	1868.5
11.	Kerala	3274.1	3531.8	3675.0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2293.6	2377.4	2525.2
13.	Maharashtra	3815.9	3923.5	4107.7
14.	Manipur	292.1	318.1	326.2
15.	Meghalaya	28.0	34.4	34.1
16.	Mizoram	48.8	67.9	74.9
17.	Nagaland	20.6	21.7	26.8
18.	Orissa	963.5	977.3	947.8
19.	Punjab	540.0	580.6	580.8
20.	Rajasthan	886.9	873.8	880.5
21.	Sikkim*			
22.	Tamil Nadu	3607.7	3896.1	4145.2
23.	Tripura	205.9	212.5	241.9
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2491.6	2696.8	2714.7
25.	West Bengal	5468.8	5739.0	5880.5
26.	A & N Islands	21.6	25.0	26.4
27.	Chandigarh	139.7	124.7	113.5
28.	D. & N. Haveli	5.0	5.5	5.8
29.	Delhi	1081.2	1097.4	117.0
30.	Daman and Diu	5.0	5.5	5.8
31.	Lakshaweep	9.7	8.8	9.3
32.	Pondicherry	133.8	144.5	145.9
	TOTAL	37429.7	39139.9	40223.7

NOTE: 1. * No employment exchange is functioning in the State.

2. Totals may not tally due to rounding.

Problems of Senior Citizens

90. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) The number of senior citizens in the country as on date;

(b) Whether Government have carried out any study as to the financial, social, medical and other problems and hardships faced by them;

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to offer relief to the senior citizens; and

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, whether it is proposed to take up the matter now and formulate a policy in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) As per the 1991 Census there were 56, 68 million persons aged 60 years and above in the country.

(b) While studies have been carried out on some aspects of the problems and hardships being faced by senior citizens, no All India Study covering all the listed aspects has been carried out.

(c) and (d) The Government has a number of ongoing programmes which seek to provide